

THE NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM
A Consortium of the Blake, Paint Branch and Springbrook Clusters

Comments on the FY 2011 Capital Budget and the FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program

On behalf of The NEC Elementary Schools

November 12, 2009

Broad Acres, Burnt Mills, Burtonsville, Cannon Road, Cloverly,
Cresthaven, Dr. Charles Drew, Fairland, Galway, Greencastle, Jackson Road,
Roscoe Nix, William T. Page, Sherwood, Stonegate, Westover

Good evening Superintendent Weast, President Brandman, and members of the Board. My name is Dawn Dolan, Springbrook Cluster Coordinator, speaking on behalf of the sixteen elementary schools of the Northeast Consortium. It is a pleasure to say that there has been a positive progression for our Clusters' schools. However, there is still a long way to go.

Galway opened this year in their new state-of-the-art school. Cresthaven's and Sherwood's construction is in full swing—and on schedule! Cloverly is *still* very grateful for their new gym and technologies!

We are glad to see MCPS use a proactive stance to take advantage of the “silver lining” in our gloomy economy, by maximizing on lower construction industry costs. Advancing our renovation and modernization projects is sensible and the NEC is already seeing the gain in this approach.

The bid for Jackson Road's addition now has Board approval and we are eager for the final bidding for Fairland's. Cannon Road will begin their modernization next fall. With an enrollment of 7,786 children, we are overcapacity by 853 students and have 41 portables not including those at FHC to help us find seats for education. These three schools combined, constitute 560 of these extra seats and their projects are critical! The NEC schools easily illustrate the need to give modernizations equal priority to additions in the planning budget. For us, the idea that schools as overtaxed as Galway and Cresthaven have been and Cannon Road is, boggle any coherent reason to differentiate the priority of their facility needs.

The NEC has five elementaries yet to receive a FACT Score. Two of these, Stonegate and Burnt Mills, at 37- and 45-years-old, have been Recommended for Assessment in the FY11-16 CIP. Stonegate is keen to be placed on the list for modernization. The remaining three, Broad Acres (@57), Cloverly (@48) and Greencastle (@21) have not requested an assessment, but we are concerned about their age —especially given the history of our time-lines for CIP schedules.

We support the idea of re-examining the FACT evaluation process with the inclusion of stakeholder input to ensure it is reflective of changing educational needs. The NEC elementaries may be a perfect model for how schools have adapted programs to meet student and family needs that often influence their facilities.

The NEC is composed of a richly diverse community and this is reflected throughout our schools. Socio-economically our schools provide for some of the most and least fortunate students. Our schools have the 2nd largest student population after the DCC (16 vs. 28 ESs), we are 4th highest in our FARMS rates (@ 43.4%), 6th highest in ESOL (20.4%) and 2nd highest in our mobility rates (19.3%). Additionally, a large number of our schools are in the Priority Funding Area. Eleven (11) of our schools are part of the Class Size Reduction Initiative and have a total of 152 CSR classes. Our schools have 7 pre-k, 2 Head Start, and 2 METS classes. Four (4) of our schools provide Linkages To Learning/School Based Health Centers. We have 37 classes of special ed programs; as well as a Gifted & Talented Center at Drew and a Spanish Immersion Program at Burnt Mills.

That our schools deliver a wealth of programming speaks volumes to their tenacity and ingenuity. Providing a safe and healthy school for our children is paramount, regardless of its position on the modernization or renovation schedule. Pressing maintenance issues too often make this a contest. We support the expansion of Countywide Projects such as the proposed HVAC program. ***Sherwood Elementary has long petitioned to replace their system that creates extreme cost and environmental inefficiencies.*** We'd like to see this effort continue in PLAR, BMPI and other overlapping maintenance areas.

Existing conditions at ***Cannon Road*** are troubling. There is ***NO Generator*** and school closed on more than one occasion last year for ***lack of heat!*** There is ***no sprinkler system*** and a proper ***fire safety*** plan to compensate is non-negotiable! The ***rest room*** situation is shameful. They ***lack basic toilet paper dispensers*** and any ***ventilation***. Students must use ***inappropriate stalls that are too low*** to provide any privacy! Frankly, it's impossible to believe walls can't be raised, or partitions jury-rigged from plywood etc., and fitted. Taking care of basic human needs should not be a cause for social and emotional trauma! This is irresponsible; there is no excuse.

Jackson Road is suffering with ***plumbing back-ups and clogged grease traps***. This is worsening, causing uncomfortable stench for students and staff! Although not considered a health-risk (?), it will be when bacteria festers and respiratory or skin reactions occur. Their new addition will have no bearing on the replacement of this plumbing incorrectly installed sometime around 1995. The amount of maintenance time and money spent on an unfixable problem makes no sense. It is also perplexing to us, given work crews will be at the school (albeit in a different scope), that the restrooms should wait until 2016 for upgrading.

Fairland, also scheduled for an addition, continues to request ***Improved Lighting*** in their ***parking lot***. Ironically, the handicapped parking area is now lit via the outdoor lamps of the portables. However, it is likely that when the portables leave, so goes the light — and the larger parking lot remains dim.

We are wary of the “out-of-sight, out-of-mind” mentality that seems prevalent in our facility approach — that corrections are not made and finishing details not completed. ***Galway*** is elated with their new school and is embarrassed to have to ask for something as simple as the ***hanging of the 10 Clay Panels of their Diversity Mural*** that students created last year for their new hallway. ***Roscoe Nix*** needs attention to their problem with ***Safe Access to School***. The ***bus circle configuration*** and ***lack of sidewalks*** presents a serious safety hazard for the arrival and departure of children. This has been well-established since the opening of this school, and with

the indication that Safe Access projects will not be funded in the CIP after FY2012, raises the frustration that it has not been corrected.

While **Stonegate** prepares for an indefinite placement (and wait) on the modernization schedule, their list of facility issues is growing. We do not want them reach the levels of decrepitness seen in other NEC schools. Stonegate needs **repair to the roof that is leaking over the main entry hallway**. Sinks and plumbing throughout classrooms are **leaking and backing up**. The **walls in the hallways and classrooms** are seeing significant **cracking** and **paint is chipping** throughout!

Stonegate needs **ADA Accessibility!** There is (has) **no ramp or path** in the front or back of their building, although they have an LFI program and two students in wheelchairs! **Security** has become a sensitive issue for Stonegate with several vandalisms. They are in need of **Security Cameras**, as well as a **Secured Entry System** for the main entrance for the safety of the students and protection of school property.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to represent our schools. We appreciate your efforts to consider our requests and your diligence in providing the best school system possible for our children.

Respectfully,

The Northeast Consortium Cluster Coordinators

Area Vice President

Patti Twigg

Springbrook

Dawn Dolan

Paint Branch

Patti Twigg

Blake

Lee Ann Doerflinger

NEC Elementary Individual CIP Requests FY2011

Broad Acres

- Assessment for FACT Score
- Add to Modernization Schedule

Burnt Mills

- **Assessment for FACT Score**
— *Maintain on Superintendents Recommended CIP for FY11-16*
- **Add to Modernization Schedule**

Cannon Road

☛ MAINTAIN ON MODERNIZATION SCHEDULE WITH

- Move to Fairland Holding Facility: June 2010
- COMPLETION DATE: JANUARY 2012

- ☠ NO GENERATOR! A solution is imperative to provide for the health and safety of students with consistent ***heating for students*** throughout this school year!
- ☠ BATHROOM REPAIRS!!
 - Toilet Paper Dispensers:
 - Only 2 of the 4 Faculty Facilities have Dispensers!
 - ***NONE (0)*** of the Student Facilities have Dispensers! 14 Needed!
 - Stall Walls:
 - Walls are ***TOO SHORT for Student Privacy!*** Need to be Raised OR fitted with Attached Partition!
 - NO VENTILATION
- ☠ NO SPRINKLER SYSTEM! A reasonable FIRE SAFETY system must be in place to protect the health and safety of students throughout this school year!
- ☠ Inefficient A/C WINDOW UNITS: Replacement or repaired window units need to be in place to ensure the health and safety of students throughout this school year!

Cloverly

- FACT Score Assessment
- Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2015

Cresthaven

- ✓ At Fairland Holding Facility – Thank You!
- Maintain Completion Date of 2010 with gymnasium!

Drew

— Has no CIP Requests at this time! Thank You!

Fairland

- ☛ FY10 Addition Bidding in Process!
 - Maintain for a Completion Date of August 2011 and 2012 Gymnasium
 - Lighting in the Parking Lot is inadequate. Handicapped Parking is temporarily enhanced via the outdoor lamps of the portables.

Galway

☺ MODERNIZATION COMPLETE! Thank You!

— Requests that the 10 Diversity Clay Mural Panels be mounted in the new hallway.

Greencastle

- Assessment for FACT Score
- Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2015
- No CIP requests at this time! Thank You!

Jackson Road

- 👉 FY10 Addition Bid Complete!
 - Maintain for a Completion Date of August 2011 and 2012 Gymnasium
 - Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2016
- 💀 PLUMBING REPAIRS! Plumbing back-ups and clogs are becoming ***progressively worse*** causing ***uncomfortable stench*** throughout building! Must be repaired or replaced BEFORE a health/safety crisis and in conjunction with addition of new plumbing to the facility.

Roscoe Nix

- Safe Access to School: The ***bus circle configuration*** and ***lack of sidewalks*** presents a Safety Hazard for arrival and departure of students and vehicles.

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— NO CIP Requests at this time! Thank You!

Sherwood Elementary

- ✓ Addition Under Construction – Thank You!
- Maintain Completion Date of 2010!
- 😊 Restroom Renovation Completed Summer 2009 – Thank You!
- HVAC – A more environmentally efficient and ***cost effective*** system is needed!

Stonegate

- **Assessment for FACT Score**
 - ***Maintain on Superintendents Recommended CIP for FY11-16***
 - **Add to Modernization Schedule**
- 💀 ADA ACCESSIBILITY: NO Exit Ramp or Path in Front or Back of Building! (***although have two LFI students in wheelchairs!***).
- 💀 Roof Repair: Leaking Roof over Main Entry Hallway!
- 💀 Plumbing Repair: Sinks and plumbing throughout classrooms backs up and leak. These are mostly in the first and third grade cluster areas with shared plumbing.
- 💀 SECURITY: The school has been vandalized several times and is in need of ***Security Cameras***; as well as ***Secured Entry System*** for Main Entrance for the safety of the students and the protection of school property.
- 💀 Walls: The walls in hallways and classrooms are Cracking and Chipping Paint is prevalent throughout!

Westover

— No CIP requests at this time! Thank You!



Stonegate Elementary School, Inc.
14811 Notley Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

November 11, 2009

Board of Education
Montgomery County Public Schools
Carver Educational Services Center
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: FACT ASSESSMENT FOR STONEGATE

Dear MCPS Board of Education Members:

We write on behalf of the Stonegate Elementary School PTA, which requests that the MCPS Board of Education (BOE) authorize a FACT assessment for our school. Stonegate ES was built in 1971, making the building 38 years old. While we are grateful for the bathroom renovations and gymnasium we have received, our classrooms are not large enough for our ever-increasing enrollment, and there are unacceptable problems with the majority of the building, such as:

- * windows that are old and drafty, that provide no energy efficiency;
- * a leaking roof over main entry hallway;
- * chipping paint in most classrooms;
- * cracking classroom and hallway walls; and
- * leaking sinks and old plumbing that often backs up.

Furthermore, while projected enrollment for this year was 431, we have enrolled 471 students. Stonegate houses four portable classrooms. With an increase in shared housing and students leaving private schools in our neighborhood, we anticipate similar trends in the coming years. Our school building is simply too small to accommodate the number of students we have.

Significantly, Stonegate provides little ADA accessibility, despite having a robust LFI program with two wheelchair-bound students. There is no exit ramp or path in the front or the back of building, potentially creating a very unsafe environment for those students.

The safety of our students is paramount. We would like security cameras as well as a secured entry system for the main entrance. Vandalism at Stonegate has occurred repeatedly. While MCPS has budgeted security camera installation for middle and high schools, elementary schools are not included in this plan.

We understand that MCCPTA is asking that MCPS consider a re-evaluation of the way FACT scores are assigned. We support this endeavor and urge that this be done with due haste so that Stonegate may be assessed as soon as possible.

We are proud of our teachers and staff at Stonegate, who do a great job teaching our kids. Nevertheless, our school building is significantly outdated and can not support new technologies to help our students learn. We respectfully request that you consider these comments as you prepare your capital improvements budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patty Parachini, NEC Representative for Stonegate

Tammy Forsyth, Stonegate PTA President

cc: Audra Fladung, Stonegate Principal
Ursula Hermann, Community Superintendent

May 15, 2009

Dr. Jerry D. Weast
MCPS Superintendent of Schools
850 Hungerford Drive, #122
Rockville MD 20850

Comments: Capital Improvement Plan
Cannon Road Elementary School
New School Construction beginning 6/2010

Dear Dr. Weast:

Cannon Road Elementary School is scheduled to be rebuilt starting in June of 2010. We would like to thank MCPS for scheduling our new construction. Our CRES community is very grateful and eagerly looking forward to the new school's completion.

In light of the current economic situation, we are hoping that our new school plans are still on track. **It is vital that the new school is built.** CRES was originally built in 1967. It has inadequate space for the number of students, and several of our classes are in portable units.

The building has no sprinkler system. We lack a separate gymnasium. Our "All Purpose Room" use is highly scheduled and our lunch periods are very rushed as a result. Our Media Center is TINY and wholly inadequate. We are very limited in the number of books we can have due to the lack of shelf space.

The building's plumbing, wiring, heating, etc. are ancient. The rest rooms are in terrible condition. The students often complain about them. In addition, there are inadequate facilities available for adult use. Our parking lot and driveway present serious safety challenges as well as being inadequate.

The Cannon Road community has dealt with a deteriorating school facility for many years. In the past, we have had to close the school due to problems with the heating system. As the building ages further, these repairs and resulting school closures are likely to happen with much more frequency.

It is imperative that the construction of the new school proceeds as planned. Our students, teachers and administrators deserve a safe and stable school building.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Biamonte
PTA President
Cannon Road Elementary School
301-879-2099

May 29, 2009

Cannon Road Restroom Facilities upgrade requirements

		Paper towel Dispensers	toilet paper dispensers	Toilets	Urinals	Sinks	Mirrors
Facility facility 1			2				
Facility facility 2		1					
Facility facility 3 Health room			1				
Facility facility 4							
Boys South Hall	No Ventilation Toilet Stall wall too Low		1				1
Girls South Hall	No Ventilation Toilet Stall wall too Low		2				1
Boys East Hall	No Ventilation Toilet Stall wall too Low		2				1
Girls East Hall	No Ventilation Toilet Stall wall too Low		4				1
Boys West Hall	No Ventilation Toilet Stall wall too Low		2				1
Girls West Hall	No Ventilation Toilet Stall wall too Low		3				1

Primary problem are bathroom stall walls are too short for student privacy, and there is no ventilation. The number of stalls in each bathroom is denoted by the number of paper dispensers needed.